

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 CU-04 DRC-01 /110 W

----- 008740

R 050916Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7136

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, GR, YO

SUBJECT: OPENING OF USIS CENTER IN SKOPJE

1. EMBASSY PUZZLED BY TIMING AS WELL AS SUBSTANCE OF GREEK CHARGE'S DEMARCHE. INFORMATION CENTER HAS BEEN OPEN FOR TWO FULL MONTHS NOW AND WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT GOY SEEKS TO "EXPLOIT" INFORMATION CENTER TO SUPPORT ITS SIDE OF MACEDONIA DISPUTE. THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS PUBLICITY AT ALL EXCEPT FOR BRIEF FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF OPENING DAY CEREMONIES. FAILURE OF PRESS TO EDITORIALIZE PLUS ABSENCE OF ANY MACEDONIAN BREAST-BEATING IN YUGOSLAV SPEECHES ON OPENING DAY SUGGESTS YUGOSLAVS ARE AWARE OF OUR SENSITIVITIES AND, FOR TIME BEING ANYWAY, HAVE NO INTENTION OF EXPLOITING OUR PRESENCE IN SKOPJE (WE UNDERSTAND THAT ATHENS AND SALONIKA PRESS ALSO PASSED OVER OPENING WITHOUT COMMENT).

2. TRANSLATION OF USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH'S SPEECH WAS OF COURSE CHECKED CAREFULLY BY US STAFF, AND WE ARE UNAWARE OF HIDDEN INNUENDOS WHICH CHARGE MENTIONED.

3. CONCERNING GREEK CLAIM THAT WE DID NOT DISCUSS SKOPJE PLANS WITH THEM, IN CAUSUAL CONTACTS WITH GREEK EMBASSY OFFICERS HERE WE SPOKE FREELY ABOUT PLANS FOR SKOPJE OPENING. THIS WOULD GENERALLY DRAW FROM THEM A LONG DISCOURSE ON YUGOSLAV POLICY ON MACEDONIA,
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BUT WITHOUT BITTERNESS AND WITH NO HINT THAT GOG FELT STRONGLY

ENOUGH ABOUT SKOPJE USIC TO TRY TO BLOCK OPENING.

4. AMBASSADOR HAD VERY CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH AMBASSADOR
TETENES, BUT HE DEPARTED IN JUNE AND HAS NOT AS YET BEEN REPLACED.
CONTACT WITH HIM WAS NOT FREQUENT IN MONTHS JUST PRIOR TO HIS
DEPARTURE, SINCE HE WAS OUT OF COMMISSION FOR A LONG TIME OWING
TO A VERY SERIOUS AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. RELATIONS BETWEEN
EMBASSIES AT LOWER LEVELS HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY AND CONTACTS FAIRLY
FREQUENT, CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION WHICH CHARGE NOMIKOS SOUGHT
TO CONVEY.
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30 JUN 2005

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